(d) whether it is also a fact that this payout would disable the company from executing its future plans, which include its equity in Sudanese oil companies and bidding in oil exploration blocks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) the news-item appeared in the Economic times dated the 12th November, 2002 has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, Government has not issued any Presidential Directive to ONGC regarding payment of Special Dividend to the Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of above reply.

Cut in import Bill

1472. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a spurt in international crude oil prices resulting in increase in oil import bill;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details regarding the demand and supply position, actual revenue outgo and domestic collection in respect of petroleum products, during the last three years; and

(d) the proposal, if any, for minimising import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) A comparison of the quantity and value of crude oil imports for the period April-October 2002 with the period April-October 2001 is given below :

	April—October 2002		April—October 2001	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	(TMT)*	(Rs. crore)	(TMT)*	(Rs. crore)
	49,294	44,368	45,714	38,197

* TMT : Thousand Metric Tonnes.

The crude oil import bill for the remaining period of the current year will depend upon the actual imports and the crude oil prices during the balance period.

(c) The details are given as Statement (*See* below).

(d) In order to reduce oil import bill, various steps have been taken which *inter-alia* include the following :

(i) Improving the recovery factor from existing indigenous major oil exploration fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recover (IOR) schemes;

(ii) Exploring in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also exploring in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iii) Developing faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(iv) Increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(v) Acquiring acreage abroad, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired participating interests in various overseas E&P projects.

Statement

Regarding cut in import bill supply demand of Petroleum Products

(Fig. In MMT))

1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
Production	Demand	Surplus (Deficit)	Production	Demand	Surplus (Deficit)	Production	Demand	Surplus (Deficit)
82.9	97.1		99.6	100.1		104.3	100.4	3.9

Net Import Bill

Year	(Rs. Crore)
1999-2000	53,515
2000-2001	70,353
2001-2002	56,361

Sales realization of oil marketing companies from demestic sales

(Rs. Crore)

Company	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
IOC	80,364	96,881	95,532
BPC	33,007	45,694	39,741
HPC	35,802	47,679	43,655
IBP	6,693	8,251	8,334

Holding of events at heritage monuments

1473. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASI does not have any guidelines for allowing holding of any events at heritage monuments;

(b) if so, in what manner monuments are being given out for holding cultural events;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ASI does not charge any amount even though in other parts of the world events at monuments cost very high; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Specific guidelines under sub-rule (1) and (2) of Rule 7 of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules 1959 have been laid down for allowing/holding of events in the centrally protected monuments. Written permissions are issued in accordance with the rule by the Central Government, stipulating terms and conditions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The present position is being reviewed.

Objections on expenditure by tourist office, frankfurt

†1474. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Rashtriya Sahara dated 30th September, 2002 captioned "Frankfurt mei bhartiya paryatan karyalaya ne farzi niyuktion par karodo phunke";

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.